



Sheila Dixon

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Mayor Dixon Kicks-Off the Summer Food Service Program

Baltimore, MD (June 27, 2007) - Mayor Sheila Dixon and Housing Commissioner Paul Graziano joined elected officials and community groups to kick-off the 2007 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), which is administered by Baltimore Housing's Office of Community Services. The program officially began on June 18th and will run through August 17, 2007. Children ages 18 and under will receive a nutritional breakfast and lunch five days a week during the summer months when schools are closed.

Good nutrition is essential to a child's growth and development. Thousands of low-income children in Baltimore rely on the meals provided at school to get the nutrition they require to learn and grow. When schools close for the summer, children miss out on free or reduced-price school breakfast and lunch. However, through the SFSP, underprivileged children can continue to receive nutritious meals while on break.

"No child should ever live in hunger," said Mayor Sheila Dixon. "I am grateful that the Summer Food Service Program exists and provides hot meals for needy children in Baltimore. By continuing to receive hot meals during the summer, children can return to school in the Fall ready to learn."

This year, 300 community organizations including churches, recreational centers and school programs throughout the City have joined the cause by becoming feeding sites. The meals, which are provided at no cost to the children, are freshly prepared and delivered daily to the sites by the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) School and Community Nutrition Program, a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provides funding for the SFSP.

This year the city received over \$1.5 million in funding to provide breakfast and lunch to our underprivileged children. Last year more than 700,000 meals were served by the end of the year. This is the third year in which Baltimore Housing has sponsored the program. "Administering the Summer Food Service Program is what the Office of Community Services is all about," said Deputy Housing Commissioner Reggie Scriber. "It is our responsibility to help ensure that the residents of Baltimore, especially the youngest ones, have the services they need to reach their full potential."

For more information you may visit www.mdsummermeals.org.

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